

1. Will schools see increased funding in IDEA B allocations? I see it was stripped from HB645.

We are seeing an increase in IDEA funding this year. The allocation reports are posted on the Special Education web page under 'IDEA and State Fiscal'. These reports show the funds available through our regular grant and under the ARRA. The legislative actions had to do with the state special education funding and do not impact the IDEA funds.

2. When can we expect new budget worksheets?

The School Finance Division expects to have post-legislative general fund budget data sheets posted by Monday, May 11. In the meantime, school districts can use the FY2010 general fund excel spreadsheet to estimate budget limits. Please ensure that the Inputs page shows the correct constants amounts for basic and per-and entitlement rates and that the at-risk payment appropriation amount is set to zero. For FY2010, the basic entitlement rates are as follows: Elementary \$22,580; Middle School \$63,945; High School \$250,958. The per-ANB entitlement rates are: Elementary \$4,857 and High School \$6,218.

3. What fund will the HB645 money that is intended to provide the 3%-3% be deposited in?

This money will be deposited in the General Fund (01).

4. Is there a limit on the size of the grant that an individual school district can apply for? It depends on what grant you are referring to.

In HB645, the Deferred Maintenance & Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants will be distributed on the Quality Educator payment formula. The size of this grant is limited in terms of what the QEC payment would generate. School districts must submit an application for the funds. Also in HB645, the Quick Start Energy Grants don't appear to be limited in size, but there are other conditions that must be met.

In HB152, the grants available under the Quality Schools Facility Grant Program do not appear to be limited in size, but again, there are other conditions that must be met.

5. How soon will OPI have tentative money figures for districts?

Please see question #1.

6. We have heard that district allocations via QEP will still require districts to apply to the Dept of Commerce. Is that right?

Yes. This is correct. The Deferred Maintenance & Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants will be distributed on the Quality Educator Payment (QEP) formula and school districts are required to apply to the Department of Commerce for access to the funds.

7. Will your slides be available for downloading?

All the materials presented today are available for viewing and download under the Recovery Act News tab on the OPI homepage (opi.mt.gov). Look for the tab on the right-hand side of the page and follow the links.

8. Where will the final Title I and IDEA ARRA amounts per district be published...when?

The IDEA Allocations are available on the Special Education Web page under "IDEA and State Fiscal." Click on the Allocations tab and you will be taken to a page with links to all of the allocation reports for the regular and ARRA funds. The Title I Allocations will be posted on the Federal Programs Web page. Both preliminary Regular and ARRA will be posted initially, followed by final Regular and ARRA when available.

9. Will the application for the deferred maintenance monies require us to indicate how we plan to spend the allocation?

The application will most likely ask for a description of how the district intends to spend the money.

10. Is there a list of energy auditors available to districts?

Not at this point, but that is a good idea and we will work with the Department of Commerce to obtain a list and make it available to school districts.

11. The question is to add AG to vocational education

Please see question #12.

12. WRT Ag Ed- if there is a vocational program, but not specifically agriculture, would that school qualify for the \$7500 startup?

No. The funds must be used for agricultural education programs. Each school that adds agricultural education to its curriculum and recruits and retains an endorsed agricultural education teacher will receive a one-time payment of up to \$7,500.